

One Brigade, One Mission, One Team...

USU Brigade commander shares vision

By Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson
University Affairs

It's been a month since the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) welcomed its fifth brigade commander, and now he shares his vision with the USU community.



Capt. John. R. Rumbaugh

Capt. John R. Rumbaugh, CFAAMA, MSC, U.S. Navy, assumed command Sept. 7, and became the first naval officer to command the brigade since its establishment in 1972.

“Assuming command of any ship or station is an honor and a responsibility to which all Navy officers aspire,” Captain Rumbaugh explained. “Being the first Navy officer to serve as the commander of the USU Brigade in this era of integration and interoperability within DoD (Department of Defense), other federal agencies, and the international medical community is an exceptionally great opportunity.”

The brigade commander may be new to USU, but he's not new to working in a tri-service environment. His previous assignment with the U.S. Central Command sent him on several deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He also held a variety of staff officer positions during his assignment with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

It's those experiences that the commander brings to USU. During his first brigade commander's call Sept. 16 he shared his vision with the enlisted staff members.

"I remember hearing of an ancient proverb, 'May you live in interesting times.' I think those of us at USU are living in interesting times," the commander said. "Few things in life are certain, but for all of us, we can be certain that change is coming our way and there are a few things you can do when change comes. You can lead that change, embrace it, ignore it, or even resist it, but none-the-less change is coming. So, my vision for the brigade is that we act as leaders do, and lead that change."

The commander also went on to say that the main purpose of the brigade is to support the university in accomplishing its mission of training the best military medical leaders possible.

In doing so, Captain Rumbaugh challenged brigade members to analyze the way things are being done. "Just because we've always done things that way, doesn't mean we should," he said. "If the reasons still exist, then leave the process in place, but if they don't then maybe we need to look at changing them."

Captain Rumbaugh encourages members to treat each other with respect, look out for one another, and remember... "One Brigade, One Mission, One Team."